GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1215
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2016
Problems of Small Tea Growers
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of small tea growers in the country at present, State-wise;
(b) whether the big tea producers are not purchasing green tea leaves from small tea growers due to which they have to destroy a huge portion of their produce; and
(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the small tea growers from such problems?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a): Estimated number of small tea growers in various states of the country is around 2 Lakh as per tentative break-up given below:

Name of state	No. of growers
Assam	100000
West Bengal	35000
Tamil Nadu	50000
Kerala	10000
Tripura	3500
Himachal Pradesh	1500
Total	200000

(b) & (c): No report has been received regarding destruction of green leaf by the small tea growers from any part of the country due to refusal of purchase of green leaves by big tea producers.However, the Government has set up District Level Price Monitoring Committeesheaded by the District Commissioner/ District Magistrate in each district of tea growing regions to monitor the green leaf price paid by tea factories to the small tea growers. A separate directorate has been formed to look after the developmental needs of the small tea growers.Development officials of the Small Grower Directorate extend regular technical support to the growers on young tea management and help them to organize Self Help Groups (SHGs) and motivate them to deliver good quality leaf to the processing factories or establish their own processing factories.

Under the Tea Development and Promotion Scheme of the Tea Board, the Small Tea Growers are also extended various benefits like subsidy for new planting, replanting, rejuvenation pruning, one time grant for common facilities to the SHGs towards purchase of field inputs, pruning machine, harvesting machine, purchase of transport vehicles for transporting green leaf to the factory, setting up of factories for processing their own green leaf etc.

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